

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. CST on Friday, February 7, 2014 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Harley Snyder, Ed Glover, Jeff Good, Bill Joiner, Tom Dabertin and Randy Palmateer. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:**
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| <u>a. Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 19, 2013:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <u>b. Compliance Reports, MBE/WBE/Buy IN 4th QTR Quarterly, 2013:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <u>c. Personnel, Stipend Adjustment:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <u>d. Grants, MPLLE Grant Amendment:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| <u>e. Grants, East Chicago Grand Amendment:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**
- a. **Recommendation:**
- i. **NICTD NEPA Gap Fill and RDA Allocation to Support West Lake:** D. Fesko addressed that the West Lake expansion needs to raise \$16 million locally to move forward with the expansion.
- D. Fesko thanked the Town of Munster for allocating 35% of their CEDIT funds and Lake County for committing \$2 million going forward. Currently are at a 5.7% deficit and the deadline is set for the end of March 2014 for the local communities to contribute to this project.
- D. Fesko offered a recommendation to allocate \$8 million annually for the Capital contribution for the West Lake corridor expansion.
- H. Snyder motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by R. Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- D. Fesko also addressed that part of the application process includes filing an environmental, NEPA, study along with the assistance from NICTD. NICTD will allocate \$1.9 million and the RDA will support up to \$1 million to complete this study to file the application.
- D. Fesko offered a recommendation to allocate up to \$1 million to assistance with the completion of this.
- T. Dabertin motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- ii. **Funding Award- NICTD Engineering/Operations Study ("Bikes on Trains"):** D. Fesko reported that NICTD has asked for a \$5,000 grant from the RDA to assist with an operations study to allow bikes on the train.
- D. Fesko asked for the recommendation to award to the \$5,000 grant request.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- iii. **Contracts Award- Trauma Center and Academic Medical Center Feasibility Studies:** D. Fesko addressed that as of last year the Indiana General Assembled passed SB585 and allocated money to the RDA to fund a feasibility study for a trauma and academic medical center in northwest Indiana.

D. Fesko offered a recommendation to award the contract to Katz, Sapper & Miller (KSM) to oversee both studies moving forward.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by T. Dabertin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iv. **Contracts Award- ODS, Handbook Revisions 2014:** D. Fesko asked for recommendation to award a contract for ODS to revise the RDA handbook.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the contract award with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- v. **Contracts- ODS, Focus Groups:** D. Fesko asked for recommendation to approve ODS's contact to conduct focus groups.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- vi. **Contracts- Tec Air, Land O' Frost and Canadian National (CN):** D. Hollenbeck reported that the RDA created their deal-closing in an effort to partnership with local units of government and the state with direct job creation in northwest Indiana. He stated that the RDA received a number of applications and that the RDA has preliminarily approved three of those applications in prior meetings and instructed that legal and RDA staff to finalize those agreements. D. Hollenbeck was pleased to report that the task has been completed as to three of those job creation grants. Legal and the RDA staff have worked diligently putting the agreements together; they focused on assuring that the RDA contribution is protected and preserved and that the recipients of the grants will fulfill their commitments.

D. Hollenbeck commended the local communities and IEDC for their work on these projects. There is a total creation of 427 permanent jobs in the region.

D. Hollenbeck asked for the recommendation of the approval and authorized from the Chairman to execute the deal closing fund grant agreements for Tec Air, Land O' Frost and Canadian National (CN).

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by T. Dabertin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- vii. **Policies- Deal Closing:** D. Fesko addressed that the RDA will rename its deal closing policy to the following: no interest securitized forgivable loan policy. Also added to the change is that at

the time IEDC makes an official funding request to the RDA, a letter of funded commitment by the community should accompany the request.

D. Fesko offered a recommendation to approve the renaming of the deal closing policy to the no interest securitized forgivable loan policy and also the added changes aforementioned above.

E. Glover motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

viii. Ratification:

- i. **Deal Closing, AM Manufacturing:** S. Ziller reported that AM Manufacturing, a manufacture of equipment that serves the bakery industry, is looking to expand into Munster Indiana. This group is expected to create 40 new jobs.

S. Ziller asked for recommendation to approve a request for \$400,000 in the no interest securitized forgivable loan program and asked the Board to ratify their decision.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by J. Good. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- ii. **Contracts, ODS, Workforce Data:** S. Ziller reported that the ODS contract for workforce data was a contact in the amount of \$17,250 to collect demographic data on jobs created by the RDA funded projects.

S. Ziller asked the Board for the ratification of approving the contact.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the ratification with a second by T. Dabertin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. Project Status Review:

b. Surface Transportation:

- i. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that the members on the surface transportation committee have been discovering, along with NICTD management and the consultants at URS, that the effort put together by the Congressman emphasizes a substantial need for expansion of the West Lake Corridor. He also stated that bikes on train are essential and that he is optimistic about the future of northwest Indiana as a result of this development.

c. Shoreline Redevelopment:

- i. **Update:** None

d. Expansion of the Gary Airport:

- i. **Update:** None

e. Economic Development:

- i. **Update:** J. Good reported that the economic development working group has finalized the ratification of the deal closing fund for Tec Air, Land O' Frost and Canadian National (CN) and the members on the committee continue to work with the IEDC and will be looking forward in the coming months to look into other potential companies that are looking to relocated to northwest Indiana.

f. **RDA Operations:**

- i. **Update:** S. Ziller reported that the challenge grant application deadline for submitting applications, for the spring of 2014, is March 28, 2014.

VII. **Unfinished Business:**

- ii. **Update:** *None*

VIII. **New Business:**

- iii. **Other:** *None*

IX. **2013 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

X. **General Public Comment:** M. Lopez with the Congressman's office thanked each member of the RDA for their wiliness to come together collectively for the greater good of northwest Indiana and the selfless dedication each and everyone at the RDA possesses.

J. Wszolek stated that with the representation of the collective voices of approximately 1,800 realtors in Lake, Porter, Jasper and Newton counties have taken a position in support of increased investment of the South Shore commuter rail with the ultimate goal of connecting the Chicago market with northwest Indiana.

T. Warner reported that NIRPC has a long history of support for the expansion of the West Lake corridor. There is a 2007 resolution in conjunction with the NWI Forum and also, most recently, in December the commission committed their support for expansion in rail in northwest Indiana. The comprehensive regional plan that was adopted by NIRPC in 2011 supports the need for transit, and the need to get into the Chicago job market and how our workforce could access those jobs and lastly, transit oriented development and will go a long way towards helping with its vision. T. Warner also assured the RDA that NIRPC stands ready to assist to help through the federal requirements and to be able to have this project be beneficial towards the vision that was laid out in NIRPC's comprehensive regional plan.

J. Nowacki addressed his concerns regarding the south shore rail expansion and NICTD. He also addressed his concern regarding the amount of money being spent on large projects and issues with cost overruns.

XI. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin